

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# ON TAP

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## THE IMPACT OF HOLIDAY MEALS

With the holidays fast approaching, many of us plan to cook special meals to share with families and friends. There is a potential hidden danger to the sewer infrastructure in these meal preparations, both residential sewer pipes and District-managed sanitary sewer mains. This hidden danger is grease.

Grease needs to be handled carefully all year round, but especially this time of year. Larger quantity of grease created by cooking a turkey, ham, or roast can result in problems within your home's sewer pipes or within your neighborhood, if not disposed of properly.

Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet, or garbage disposal unit. Instead, pour the grease waste into a can and refrigerate or freeze until solid, and then dispose of it on trash day. An empty soup can works well for everyday cooking. However, you may want to save an empty coffee can to hold the grease waste for larger holiday meals. Finally, when cleaning up after the meal, wipe the excess grease from pots, pans, and utensils with paper towels before washing.

Grease poured down kitchen sinks and other drains can be a great contributor to sewage spills, and these few simple steps can make a difference in helping TCWD protect the environment by preventing sewer spills.

## CONVENIENCE WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COSTS

Did you know that you may phone in your monthly utility bill balance on a debit or credit card? During normal business hours, TCWD accepts most major credit and debit cards, and there is no processing fee to the customer. Also, customers may sign up for automatic withdrawals by obtaining the enrollment form on the TCWD website or schedule online payments through your banking institution.

## CALIFORNIA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE TRAINING WORKSHOP

On Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, TCWD hosted a workshop designed to assist homeowners develop a California Friendly Landscape. Aside from the dark and gloomy weather on an early Saturday morning, the Workshop proved to be quite a success.

The class was designed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) and WaterWise Consulting. The class was instructed by Mr. Hernan Quezada, Landscape Contractor, whose extensive experience in landscape management and development was evident throughout his presentation.

A wealth of information was presented for everyone in attendance, which included both District customers and individuals from other South Orange County cities. The workshop highlighted a wide range of conservation-based topics, including determining if the soil at your residence is conducive to your desired landscape and the basics of residential landscape design.



Another important topic discussed was residential irrigation system design and management. The District receives numerous calls from customers throughout the year regarding irrigation system issues. The information presented did an excellent job of highlighting the main components of a residential irrigation system, how to properly design the layout of an irrigation system, and identifying the various hardware that is required to construct a residential irrigation system.

Finally, the class ended with a tour of the District Main Office California-Friendly garden, and Mr. Quezada identified every type of native plant the District used in our garden.



TCWD would like thank Mr. Quezada, MET, and the attendees who braved an early Saturday morning workshop and expressed an interest in water conservation through effective landscape management.

## **WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE REMINDERS**

Remember, TCWD does have a water conservation ordinance in place. The District is currently operating at the Permanent Provision Level. This ordinance can be viewed on the TCWD website under Conservation and Drought Information.

### **Simple Things You Can Do to Conserve Water.**

- Encourage your family members and friends to take five minute showers. To help facilitate this effort, TCWD has one complimentary digital shower timer available for every District customer – one per family. If you are interested, please contact Customer Service.
- For the biggest bang for you buck, review your sprinkler irrigation timer schedules. TCWD recommends less than five minutes per station, and the Conservation Ordinance prohibits more than ten minutes. During the cooler season, most timers should be adjusted to water less, both run times and number of days per week.
- Per the Conservation Ordinance Permanent Provisions, outside irrigation can occur only between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. There are a few exceptions to this rule; please review the Permanent Provisions on the District website.

- Ensure there is no water runoff onto the curb or street when your sprinklers are in use; typically, this is an indicator that irrigation timer run time settings are too long.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean hard surfaces, such as walkways and driveways.

The District realizes and appreciates the dedicated conservation efforts made by all of our customers.

## **MAIN OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

The District Main Office is scheduled to be closed for the observance of the following holidays:

Veteran's Day November 11

Thanksgiving November 25 & 26

Christmas December 23 – closed at noon  
December 24

New Year's December 30 – closed at noon  
December 31

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Regular Board of Directors Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

## **BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The Board Meeting was held on October 20, 2010, and the following items are highlights from the Meeting:

- Status update relating to Water Monitoring and Water Conservation efforts
- Status update relating to Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility
- Status update relating to Rose Canyon and Lang Wells Groundwater Treatment Facility
- Status update relating to the 2011 Urban Water Management Plan and Schedule
- Staff report relating to County of Orange proposed improvements to Trabuco Creek Road

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Michael Perea at  
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